

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMERCE

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JOHN WITT**, on January 11, 1999 at
8:00 A.M., in Room 201 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Witt, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom Keating, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. William Crismore (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Summer Alger, Committee Secretary
Roger Lloyd, Legislative Branch
Shirley Moore, OBPP
Doug Schmitz, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearings: HB 2 - DNRC BUDGET REQUESTS, 1/11/1999; HB 2
- LIBRARY FUNDING FROM COAL TAX, 1/11/1999
Executive Action: HB 2 - COAL BOARD LOCAL IMPACTS; HB 2 -
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS; HB 2 - GROWTH
THROUGH AGRICULTURE

✓Chairman Witt left the meeting at 10:55am to attend another
meeting.

HEARING ON HB 2 - DNRC BUDGET REQUESTS

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{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 1.5 → Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 50.4}

Informational Testimony:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 1.5 - 38.5}

Roger Lloyd began with a discussion of the DNRC budget with reference to the table on page **C-119** of the Legislative Budget Analysis 2001 Biennium: Agency Budgets, Vol. 1, January 1999, LFD. *The LBA 2001 budget book will not be referred to as an exhibit, however, budget information from other sources will be noted as exhibits.

Mr. Lloyd then went over the tables and issues of pages **C-120** through **C-130** in LBA 2001 budget book, and answered committee queries.

DNRC Presentation:

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 38.5 → Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 50.4}

Bud Clinch, Director, DNRC, began with an introduction of the agency then progressed into a slide presentation of the organizational structure.

Reserve Water Rights Compact Commission

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 53.9}

Trust Land Management Division

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Break **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 36.3}**

Forestry Division

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 37.2}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Chairman Witt questioned **Director Clinch** on the truth of the obliteration of US Forest Service logging roads.

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Recess @ 9:50 to join the House Appropriation subcommittee on
Education in room 312-2 for a hearing on library funding from
coal tax. *{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 50.4}*

HEARING ON HB 2 - LIBRARY FUNDING FROM COAL TAX

*{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 51.8 → Tape : 2;
Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7.1}*

Karen Stragie, State Librarian, gave a presentation covering such
topics as Library Federations, Montana State Library's Vision,
Magazine database, costs and requests for the biennium, and
Federal Funding.

EXHIBIT (jnh00a01)

The Following Persons Testified:

Erik Burke, Governor's office *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time
Counter : 24}*

Janice Bradley, Director, Lewistown Public Library, *{Tape : 2;
Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 27.8}*

Colleen Graham, MT School Board Association *{Tape : 2; Side : A;
Approx. Time Counter : 49.5}*

**Stephanie Simpson, Teacher, 2nd grade @ Garfield Elementary
School, Lewistown, MT** *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter :
50.1}*

Jim Smith, MT Library Association *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx.
Time Counter : 54}*

Joan Bishop, free-lance writer *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time
Counter : 60.3}*

**Boone Harris, Student, Senior @ Jefferson High School, Boulder,
MT** *{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}*

**Mary Dobet, past 10 year member of MT State Library Commission,
White Sulphur Springs, MT** *{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time
Counter : 2.2}*

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

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Sen. Miller asked **Karen Stragie** how some areas could not afford Internet access, to which she replied that the costs could not be brought down low enough for them.

Rep. Tropila asked how many libraries there are in Montana, and **Ms. Stragie** answered that there are 640 in the state, all are in the directory and all are eligible for access if they are able to pay.

Sen. Nelson questioned Internet information and **Ms. Stragie** replied that they could only get the periodical articles by subscription.

Rep. Arnott-Bergsagel asked about the type make-up of the 640 libraries. **Ms. Stragie** answered that they are school, public, academic, and special (law, hospital, etc.).

Sen. Miller asked **Ms. Stragie** if she could estimate the Internet costs for Class B schools, to which she replied that she would have to look at their materials for an estimate.

Rep. Haines asked **Ms. Stragie** a series of questions concerning long-term costs. She replied that this is a long-term proposal, information resources are volatile and she cannot guess at the rate; Nor could she answer if they would be looking at the same costs each year.

Rep. Haines and **Sen. Toews** questioned **Ms. Stragie** on the budget request. **Sen. Nelson** then questioned and found that the libraries have not, so far, charged patrons for Internet use, though some have charged for printing information.

Chairman Johnson questioned **Erik Burke** on the Governors' view and found that his intention is a one-time-only appropriation.

Sen. Keating questioned **Janice Bradley** on the number of mills levied for the library, on the usage of the Internet system, and if the public library was connected to the school libraries. **Rep. Haines** also asked about periodical use.

Chairman Johnson questioned **Ms. Stragie** on Internet/Host rates and **Rep. Witt** asked her if there are options as far as packages available to the libraries. The State Library makes the overall decision, so not much choice for the other libraries, though it does ask for input.

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Sen. Miller asked what the fiscal note for last session was and **Jim Smith** answered about \$300,000, straight out of general fund appropriation.

Rep. Johnson asked about the difference between initial costs of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years of having Ebs-go-Host. **Bruce Mills, Lewis & Clark Public Library**, answered that the 1st year was about \$5,000 and the 3rd was about \$7,000.

Recess @ 11:25am to meet back in room 201 for executive action on January 8, 1999 meeting. *{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7.1}*

Roger Lloyd gave committee members a handout called "DNRC Combined Coal Tax Request 2001 Biennium."

EXHIBIT (jnh00a02)

Sen. Keating, Vice Chairman, called meeting to order and referred to the 1/8/99 gold handout "Allocation of Coal Severance Tax."

EXHIBIT (jnh00a03)

Roger Lloyd commented that the only new proposal is \$100,000/fiscal year by the State Library, and there are three present law adjustments.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 11.7 - 15.4}

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that the EXECUTIVE REQUEST FOR GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE BE ADOPTED. SECONDED by SEN. CRISMORE. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - COAL BOARD LOCAL IMPACTS

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 16.9}

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that EXECUTIVE REQUEST FOR COAL BOARD LOCAL IMPACTS BE ADOPTED. SECONDED by SEN. NELSON. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 19}

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Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON made a motion that the **EXECUTIVE REQUEST FOR CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BE ADOPTED. SECONDED** by REP. TROPILA.

Substitute Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING made a substitute motion to accept the **EXECUTIVE REQUEST, WITH AN INCREASE OF \$25,000/FY OUT OF GENERAL FUND BALANCE FOR SALINITY PROGRAM, BE ADOPTED. SECONDED** by REP. HAINES. Substitute motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:50 A.M.

REP. JOHN WITT, Chairman

SUMMER ALGER, Secretary

JW/SA

EXHIBIT (jnh00aad)